THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): In view of the free movement of these items, imported commodities like wheat, sugar and pulses are sold in various parts of the country, based on the demand and prevailing open market prices.

Export/Import of wheat

1829. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set by Government for exporting/importing wheat in the country;

(b) the names of the countries which have sent their demand for exporting wheat during the last three years and till date; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No target has been fixed by the Government for export of wheat. As regards import of wheat, in addition to 35 lakh MTs already contracted for supply through the State Trading Corporation, additional import of wheat will be resorted to the extent required to maintain the prescribed buffer norms and to meet the commitment under Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes.

(b) and (c) No formal demand for export of wheat has been received and the Government has authorized the STC this year to import wheat through open tender process.

Sanction for custom milling of Wheat

1830. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been given to States for custom milling of wheat into Atta for distributing of PDS card holders;

(b) if so, the details of the States which have been accorded the sanction so far;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has requested to allot portion of PDS wheat for the purpose; and